

NEW JERSEY HEALTH STATISTICS 2003

Center for Health Statistics



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PREFACE

New Jersey Health Statistics, 2003 is part of a series of reports of vital events and other health data dating back to 1879. This report was prepared by the Center for Health Statistics (CHS), which is located in the Office of the State Epidemiologist, Public Health Services Branch of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. The report presents selected New Jersey vital statistics for the calendar year 2003 and includes data on births, deaths, infant and fetal deaths, marriages, and divorces. In addition, population estimates for the state and each county, by age, race/Hispanic ethnicity, and sex are presented.

Data on births, deaths, and infant and fetal deaths include all reported resident events of these types, regardless of the state of occurrence. Marriage and divorce data encompass all of these events occurring in New Jersey, but do not include marriages and divorces of New Jersey residents that occurred outside the state. Data definitions and limitations are discussed in the [Technical Notes](#) section of the report.

The accuracy of the data contained in this report depends on the completeness and validity of the information recorded on the various vital records. Statistics on births, deaths, infant and fetal deaths, and marriages summarize the contents of the respective data files as of the time of preparation of the various chapters. Additions, deletions, and corrections made after that date are not reflected in the report.

Population estimates included in this report were prepared by the National Center for Health Statistics in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of the Census. These estimates result from bridging the 31 race categories used in the 2000 Census to the four race categories still in use by vital statistics systems. Bridged-race population estimates will be needed for several years until all vital statistics systems transition to the federal multiple-race standards for the collection of data on race and ethnicity.

CHS staff are available to answer questions regarding the content and use of the data in this report. Data portions of this report, as well as other health-related data, are available at the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Service's Web site. Additional statistics not included in the report or on the Internet may be obtained through request to CHS. Questions or requests should be addressed to the following:

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INTRODUCTION

Several changes from previous years' reports were implemented with the 2003 report. First, the birth and death chapters were each reorganized into three sections: trend data, cross-sectional state data, and county data. Data for selected municipalities are not reported in *New Jersey Health Statistics, 2003*, but data for all municipalities can be accessed at <http://www.nj.gov/health/chs/muni.htm>. Second, infant and fetal deaths are now reported in a chapter separate from the main death chapter. Third, for all chapters, events are reported for combined race and Hispanic ethnicity groups. In the past, births and infant and fetal deaths were reported that way, but deaths and population estimates were reported for race and Hispanic ethnicity separately. For ease of labeling the following mutually exclusive categories were used in this report unless otherwise noted: White, Black, Hispanic, and Asian/Pacific Islander where White, Black, and Asian/Pacific Islander do not include Hispanics and Hispanic includes persons of any race.

SUMMARY

Births

- There were 116,823 births to New Jersey resident women in 2003.
- The birth rate was 13.5 per 1,000 population.
- The median age of all mothers was 30.5 years and the median age of first-time mothers was 27.9 years.
- There were 7,209 births to teens (6.2% of all births) and the teen birth rate was 12.3 per 1,000 females aged 10-19 years.
- Births to women aged 35 years and older accounted for 21.5% of births in 2003.
- The birth rate was 34.8 per 1,000 women aged 35-44 years.
- Births of twins, triplets, and quadruplets numbered 5,140 in 2003, a 52% increase from 1993.
- Nearly 10% of births were preterm (prior to 37 weeks of gestation).
- Cesareans accounted for 32.1% of deliveries in 2003 and the VBAC (vaginal birth after previous cesarean) rate was 13.9 per 100 women with a previous cesarean delivery.
- Nearly 8% of births were of low birth weight (< 2,500 grams).
- The low birth weight rate among Black mothers was 1.7 times higher than the overall rate and twice the rate for Whites.
- Nearly 60% of male newborns were circumcised.
- In 2003, 35% of newborns were exclusively breastfed, 31% were exclusively formula fed, and 27% were combination fed (both breast and formula).

Infant and Fetal Deaths

- There were 662 infant deaths and 756 fetal deaths among New Jersey residents in 2003.
- Infant and fetal mortality rates among Black mothers remained more than twice the rates for any other race/ethnicity.
- The infant mortality rate among multiple births was nearly six times higher than that among singletons.
- The infant mortality rate was 1.4 among full-term births, 8.4 for those born between 32 and 36 weeks gestation, and 195.2 for those born prior to 32 weeks gestation.
- Short gestation/low birth weight, congenital anomalies, and SIDS were the leading causes of infant death.
- The three leading causes of fetal death were fetal death of unspecified cause; placenta, cord, and membrane complications; and maternal complications of pregnancy.

Deaths

- There were 73,410 deaths of New Jersey residents in 2003.
- The crude death rate was 849.8 per 100,000 population and the age-adjusted death rate was 791.7 per 100,000 population.
- The age-adjusted death rate was 943.1 among males and 677.6 among females per 100,000 population.
- Age-adjusted death rates were 779.9 for Whites, 1,059.3 for Blacks, 501.7 for Hispanics, and 355.2 for Asians and Pacific Islanders per 100,000 population.
- Life expectancy at birth was 78.5 years and was 18.7 years at age 65.
- The median age at death for all causes was 78 years. For diseases, the median age at death was 79 and for injuries, the median age at death was 45.
- The leading causes of death among New Jersey residents in 2003 were heart disease (21,801 deaths), cancer (17,551), stroke (3,914), chronic lower respiratory disease (CLRD) (2,890), diabetes (2,470), unintentional injuries (2,285), septicemia (1,887), influenza and pneumonia (1,802), kidney diseases (1,680), and Alzheimer's disease (1,626).
- In 2003, cancer surpassed heart disease as the leading cause of death of residents 65-84 years old.
- The number of homicides increased 21% from 2002.

Marriages and Divorces

- There were 50,228 marriages and 27,419 divorces in New Jersey in 2003.
- The marriage rate was 5.8 and the divorce rate was 3.2 per 1,000 population.
- The median ages of first-time brides and grooms were 27.6 and 29.4 years, respectively.

Population

- New Jersey's estimated population as of July 1, 2003 was 8,638,396.